

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-16 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 121

Applicant hereby confirms election of Invention I and its request for examination of Claims 1-16 with Claim 17 being withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 11-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. To address this rejection, Applicant has amended Claim 11 to correct the informality with its antecedent basis, and now requests withdrawal of this rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 9-12 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by commonly-owned U.S. Patent No. 6,652,407 (the '407 patent). This rejection is traversed and is believed to have been overcome in view of the Applicant's amendments to independent Claims 1 and 11.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to indicate that the mode actuator can be "circumferentially" moved between first and second mode positions to establish the corresponding AUTO and LOCK modes for the bi-directional overrunning mode clutch. This arrangement is not disclosed, taught or even suggested by the '407 patent which is

directed to axial sliding movement of a cam rod to shift the bi-directional clutch. Specifically, a cam rod (140) extends from a clutch ring (182) that is splined for sliding movement on an extension segment (138) of a sprocket (114).

Applicant believes that the amendment of Claims 1 and 11 clearly distinguish the claimed subject matter from that disclosed in the '407 patent and, as such, respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection.

DOUBLE PATENTING

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1-16 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, Applicants have submitted herewith a Terminal Disclaimer disclaiming the terminal portion of U.S. Patent No. 6,629,474. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1240.

Respectfully submitted,

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